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## 1985 Mail Art/brain Cell Sheet N°0.0 N0 99/111 International Exhibition Osaka Japan

1 400 EUR



Signature : RYUSOKE COHEN (Kouen, JAPON 1948- )

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Paper

Length : 42 cm (80 cm pour le cadre)

Height : 30cm (59 cm pour le cadre)

### Description

CONTEMPORARY ART, GRAPHIC ART  
Curiosity Original 1985's BRAIN CELL / MAIL  
ART 0.0, justified/numbered n° 99/110 and  
signed with graphite pencil in capital letters  
RYUSOKE COHEN. To the sheet is joined its  
complete list of artist s from all over the world  
who participated in this work. It includes  
specially the name of Jesiie EDWAED and J.E.S.  
ARCHIVES, the name given from Jessie to the  
structure created for managing his collection of  
modern art (20th cty). This work comes directly  
from his private collection, like many other  
BRAIN CELL sheet (please require the full list of  
available works if you re interested).This page is  
very important as it is the print of BOARD 0.0,  
which launched the BRAIN CELL artistic  
movement during the International Exhibition in

### Dealer

Siegfried Fabien

Céramique anciennes, Hte Epoque, Art islamique et indien,  
Curiosa

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Osaka, Japan, continuing the work of artist RYUSOKE COHEN. On its back, it features a typeset list of the founding artists of this new artistic movement, who will carry it on over the years, as well as a black & white photo of the exhibition. Living in San Francisco USA, then Ibiza in Spain, former archivist and contemporary art customer, he was indeed himself one of the founding artists who participated in this contemporary artistic movement. It should also be noted that his profession certainly dictated the perfect conservation procedure; here they are kept: \*the list of participants in the International Mail Art Exhibition in Osaka, \*the accompanying notice and letters sent to participating artists, \*and even sometimes, as here, one of the envelopes with the BRAIN CELL logo. Our work of art has here been framed "between 2 glasses" (with a natural light wood frame all around). The participants here are mainly American, but also from all nationalities, and even... French artists !!! This shows that our culture has not always been as resistant to all avant-gardes and novelties as that!!! This artistic approach aimed at artists from around the world gives this innovative artistic movement an international and even universal dimension. Dimensions: Sheet 42 \* 30 cm and 2-glass space frame 80\* 59 cm It's a Japanese artist, RYUSOKE COHEN (Kouen, JAPAN 1948- ) who really activate in 1985 BRAIN CELL. Work of art is no longer individual but becomes collective, the result of free exchanges of artists among themselves collaborating in the same adventure in all parts of the world. This expression support allows participating artists to express themselves on a variety of current topics: social, political, historical, artistic, environmental,... with the most total freedom. It's not here a question of a long drawing or a sophisticated intervention but rather of a spontaneous and rapid contribution, the work finding its meaning rather in its collective, free and universal aspect - exchange between different countries and cultures. This networked art project

allows individual artists to contribute through stamps, stickers, drawings or other images. These elements are mailed to Cohen, who assembles and prints them for each cell. He printed in principle 150 copies - the 1st plates sometimes are numbered differently, in 30 x 42 cm sizes, thanks to a small screen printing system called CYCLOSTYLE (now out of production). Each participant receives a Brain Cell draw by mail along with a list of contributors from around the world. Cohen kept a copy. Some of the remaining reproductions of each edition are assembled into albums in series of 30 consecutive copies. These series are sent to artists and Mail Art exhibitions around the world. Cohen will also use Brain Cell's prints in Fractal Portrait Project (another long-standing art series by Cohen) and as additions to the Raspberry Pages. Cohen described the origin of the project's name in 1985: "I will call my work BRAIN CELL," because the structure of a brain under a microscope resembles the diagram of the Mail Art network. Thousands of neurons clumped together and stacked look exactly like the Mail Art network, I think". "Brain Cell" is an artistic experience in the tradition of networked mail art, where a network develops from A, is copied, transmitted and even sent back to its author. This produces a series of cybernetic cells, capable of interacting in a non-linear order. Between 1985 and 2002, Brain Cell mobilized more than 6,000 contributors from 80 countries. New editions of Brain Cell are published every 8 to 10 days. More than 1,200 different impressions of Brain Cell have been created (Brain Cell No. 1232 was released recently in January 2025). The numbering, in a purely chronological order, allows for a precise dating. Ryosuke COHEN attached the following English notice to his recipients: "Dear friend, this is an original pleasure of the Postal Art network where we use another person's postmarks or stamps at will. We can be linked to one of the brain cells, with no limit to the number, and we started from a superb creation. At the present

time, for art, the faculty of a single genius is no longer a necessity. I intend to collect everyone's stamps or stamps on one sheet and send them back to each one. Please send me your stamp or seal Best wishes and greetings Ryusoke COHEN  
To be sent to R. COHEN I-6 HIYOSCHICHO,  
MORIGUCHI, OSAKA 570 JAPAN"

Provenance: Private collection of Mr Jesse EDWARDS; Our copy here is the Mail Art plate n°11, one of the first ones of this artistic movement. Bibliography:

\*<http://1000flights.blogspot.com/2014/08/brain-cell-n216n218n222n226n239n398-by.html>

\*<https://www.utsanga.it/cohen-brain-cell/>

\*<http://www.ryosukecohen.com/>

\*<https://artishere.fr/blog/christophe-masse-propos-e-fugace6-ryosuke-cohen/>

[https://artpool.hu/MailArt/chrono/1998/BrainCell](https://artpool.hu/MailArt/chrono/1998/BrainCell4.html)

4.html MAIL ART or POSTAL ART is an old artistic movement, dating back to 19th century

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art\\_postal](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_postal)